

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Some new distributional records for Kenya

by P. L. Britton and J. F. Harper

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Little has been written on the birds of the Nyanza Province of western Kenya, and in the course of a routine study of the birds of this area we have recorded several species hitherto unknown from Kenya. Some of these represent considerable extensions of known range, but others are known from ecologically similar areas of eastern Uganda, and it is likely that other species will be similarly recorded in the future. It is hoped that this will be the first of several papers listing our most interesting records, later to be incorporated in a check list of the birds of Nyanza.

Nomenclature follows White (1960, 1963, 1965). The following localities are mentioned: Lake Kanyaboli, $0^{\circ} 3' N.$, $34^{\circ} 10' E.$; Kisumu, $0^{\circ} 5' S.$, $34^{\circ} 45' E.$; Maranda, $0^{\circ} 6' S.$, $34^{\circ} 14' E.$; Mulaha, $0^{\circ} 3' N.$, $34^{\circ} 15' E.$; Ng'iya, $0^{\circ} 3' N.$, $34^{\circ} 22' E.$; Rusinga Island, $0^{\circ} 24' S.$, $34^{\circ} 10' E.$; Ukwala, $0^{\circ} 11' N.$, $34^{\circ} 12' E.$; Usengi, $0^{\circ} 4' S.$, $34^{\circ} 2' E.$; Waturi Point, $0^{\circ} 27' S.$, $34^{\circ} 2' E.$ All uncredited specimens are ours, and apart from two *Bradypterus graueri* and one *Chloropeta gracilirostris* which are in the British Museum (Natural History), they are all lodged in the National Museum, Nairobi.

Merops variegatus loringi (Mearns)

Seen on several dates at the edge of papyrus at Usengi, where two were ringed and released on 27th October, 1968. White (1965) did not record it east of Uganda, but Williams (1963) extended its range to extreme western Kenya; however, he omits it for Kenya in Williams (1967).

Britton (1968) omitted to mention the sympatry of this species and *M. pusillus meridionalis* (Sharpe) in Uganda, and they are also sympatric in extreme western Kenya. Weights and wing lengths of the two birds handled usefully augment the meagre data (all *M. v. bangweolensis* [Grant]) for this species in Britton (*op. cit.*): 23.5, 21.0g; 90, 88 mm.

Pogoniulus chrysoconus chrysoconus (Temminck)

Ad. ♀, 27th May, 1962, Kisumu (collected I. Bampton).

Ad. ♂, 24th May, 1969, Maranda.

Recorded by Jackson (1938) west of Kisumu, but omitted by Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1955) and White (1965). Bampton's record confirms its presence in Kenya and we have trapped it at Ng'iya (7th November, 1968) and Maranda (10th, 21st and 24th May, 1969).

Jynx torquilla subsp.

A bird first seen at Ng'iya on 19th February, 1969, was ringed and released there on 22nd February. It was an adult with wing 86 mm., weight

40 g. A palaeartic migrant previously recorded south to Somalia and Uganda (White, 1965).

Bradypterus graueri carpalis Chapin

Ad. ♀, 17th April, 1969, Waturi Point; ♂, in breeding condition, 25th May, 1969, Lake Kanyaboli; 2 ♀♀, 2nd June, 1969, Lake Kanyaboli; pair with one dependent young, 7th June, 1969, Ukwala.

The above specimens from papyrus swamp represent an extension of known range from western and southern Uganda (Mackworth-Praed and Grant, 1955).

Five of the specimens have ten rectrices, as given for *B. carpalis* and *B. graueri grandis* Ogilvie-Grant in Chapin (1953), but the number of rectrices in the remaining two specimens cannot be determined because of heavy moult. Chapin (*op. cit.*) states that *B. g. graueri* Neumann has twelve rectrices. Measurements (mm.) of the above specimens are:

Sex	Wing	Tail	Culmen (to base)
♂	70	73	18
♂	72	76	18.5
♀	69	66	18.5
♀	69	72	17
♀	66	68	18
♀	67	74	17.5
♀	68	70	17

Chloropeta gracilirostris gracilirostris Ogilvie-Grant

♂, 2nd June, 1969, Lake Kanyaboli; ♀, had recently laid, 8th June, 1969, Lake Kanyaboli.

The above specimens from the interior of papyrus swamp represent a considerable extension of known range from the Congo-Uganda border (White, 1960). C. W. Benson and Mrs. B. P. Hall have compared them with the type of *C. g. gracilirostris* in the British Museum (Natural History) and they agree perfectly. Measurements (mm.) are:

Locality	Sex	Wing	Tail
Type	♂	62	63
Lake Kanyaboli	♂	62	63
Lake Kanyaboli	♀	59	60

Keith and Vernon (1966) gave full measurements for all three members of the genus *Chloropeta* Smith, using material in the American Museum of Natural History.

Plocens castanops Shelley

♂, 13th April, 1932, Rusinga Island (anon.); ♀, 14th April, 1932, Rusinga Island (anon.); ♂, 22nd February, 1969, Usengi; pair, 25th May, 1969, Lake Kanyaboli; ♀, 2nd June, 1969, Lake Kanyaboli; ♂, 8th June, 1969, Lake Kanyaboli.

Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1955) and White (1963) do not record it east of Uganda, although the early Rusinga Island specimens exist in the National Museum, Nairobi. Williams (1967) extends the range to western Kenya, along the shore of Lake Victoria, but otherwise it appears not to be documented.

Euplectes gieronii ansorgei (Hartert)

A breeding pair, 15th May, 1969, Ng'iya; ad. ♂, 25th May, 1969, Maranda.

A male and female of this distinctive form were first recorded at Maranda on 29th March, 1969. Excluding the above specimens, we have since

examined a total of nine males and seven females in the hand at Maranda, Mulaha and Ng'iya on several dates. This is the form found in eastern Uganda. Otherwise the species is only known in Kenya from Lake Natron to east of Lake Victoria, where the form is *E. g. friederichseni* (Fischer and Reichenow) (White, 1963). Although our localities are less than *c.* 150 km. (*c.* 100 miles) from the edge of the known range of *E. g. friederichseni* there is no evidence of intergradation in our specimens.

Clytospiza monteiri (Hartlaub)

♀, had recently laid, 4th June, 1969, Ng'iya; ad. ♂, 7th June, 1969, Ukwala.

Both of the above specimens were from thick cover by water; at the edge of *Typha* at Ng'iya and the edge of papyrus at Ukwala. However, a female netted at Ng'iya on 26th March, 1969, and two males and a female netted at Mulaha on 6th April, 1969, were in scattered *Lantana camara* thickets away from water. The species occurs in high grass savanna near forest east to Uganda (White, 1963).

Estrilda troglodytes troglodytes (Lichtenstein)

♀, 15th March, 1969, Maranda; ♂, 4th May, 1969, Mulaha; ♀, holding yolking eggs, 28th May, 1969, Ng'iya.

In addition to the above specimens, we have sight records from all three localities; in cultivated land at Maranda, but on the edge of *Typha* at Mulaha and Ng'iya. A considerable extension of known range from north-western Uganda (White, 1963).

Mrs. B. P. Hall has pointed out that this is a dry country species and that this extension to western Kenya is most unexpected. With continued observation we may learn whether its occurrence in western Kenya is normal or accidental. The latter is possible, since the Maranda specimen was found dead by the wall of a house, as happens frequently with some well-known African migrants.

Lagonosticta rufopicta rufopicta (Fraser)

♂, 11th February, 1969, Mulaha; ♀, holding yolking eggs, 15th May, 1969, Ng'iya; ♂, 22nd May, 1969, Mulaha; ♀, ovary large, and ♂, 4th June, 1969, Ng'iya.

In addition to the above specimens, five have been ringed at Mulaha, two at Lake Kanyaboli and two at Ukwala. The Lake Kanyaboli and Ukwala birds were on the edge of papyrus, but all others were in scattered *Lantana camara* thickets and *Typha* by water. Although it is clearly locally numerous by water, *L. senegala ruberrima* Reichenow is far more widespread, occurring alongside *L. r. rufopicta*, but also far from water. Ng'iya has produced these two species and a pair of *L. rubricata hildebrandti* Neumann (our only record) from one set of nets on the edge of *Typha*.

White (1963) does not record it nearer than north-western Uganda, but Nicolai (1968) gives a sight record from near Tororo (Uganda) on 23rd August, 1967.

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New bird host records for *Icosta minor* (Bigot) (Diptera: Hippoboscidae) from Rhodesia

by R. P. Borrett

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On 14.4.68 a hippoboscid fly was caught on a Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*, collected near Salisbury in connection with my current life-history studies of the African pipits; on 5.1.69 another such fly was taken from a Great Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*, netted during ringing operations at my home in Salisbury. Richard's Pipit is a common resident species in Mashonaland, whilst the Great Reed Warbler is a not uncommon summer visitor from October to March.

The two flies were forwarded to Dr. F. Zumpt, Department of Entomology, South African Institute for Medical Research, Johannesburg, who identified both specimens as *Icosta (Ornithoponus) minor* (Bigot, 1858).

This fly has long been known as *Lynchbia minor*, but recently Maa (1969) re-arranged its systematic position. Maa (1964, p. 89) records it (as *Lynchbia minor*) from *Anthus* sp. from the Congo; the record from *A. novaeseelandiae* provides further evidence that pipits may be among its hosts. There are no previous records of it from the genus *Acrocephalus*, though a close relative, *Icosta (Ornithoponus) sensilis* Maa, has been recorded from *A. arundinaceus* in south-east Asia (Maa, 1969).

Maa (1969) gives the distribution of *I. minor* as "Entire Ethiopian Region and Mediterranean Basin . . . Obviously breeding on Passeriformes, with stray records from Cuculi- and Coraciiformes". Maa (1964, 1969) and Zumpt (1966) provide lists of various hosts, mostly passerine, but some non-passerine, from which *I. minor* has been recorded. It will undoubtedly be encountered on many more species in the future.

I am grateful to Dr. Zumpt for identifying this fly, and also to Mr. J. A. Ledger, Entomology Department, S.A.I.M.R., for providing references to the entomological literature.

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